



OAKLAND COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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**COMMISSIONER
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Dear Neighbor,

Oakland County is a great place to live, work and play. This newsletter shares just a few of the great services that your county government provides.

As your county commissioner, I value your input on how to make the county better. Please contact me with any of your suggestions.

Best Wishes,

Helaine M. Zack
Helaine M. Zack

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS & UPDATES

SUMMER 2005 ISSUE



COUNTY SEEKS SOLUTIONS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES PROVIDE HEALTH CARE

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners recently passed resolution #05049 to create a study group to look at ways that the County could help small businesses provide affordable health care to employees. A plan to address the spiraling health care costs that continue to squeeze businesses and employees financially would look closely at cost-sharing options. One option would require employees to pay 1/3, employers to pay 1/3 and a 1/3 to be paid from the County's Indigent Health Care Fund to provide this benefit. Similar plans have been implemented in Wayne, Macomb, and Washtenaw Counties.

This plan would not use money from the County's General Fund, nor would it affect our current budget. This is one plan that is being investigated. We intend to look at all programs that have been implemented throughout the nation. This benefit would be another way to attract businesses and help to sustain local businesses.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR Special Evening Meetings



**The Board Welcomes Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson
Topic of Discussion: The Recommended County Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007
Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 7 p.m.**

The Board of Commissioners welcomes the public to attend this evening meeting in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Auditorium, located 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan. For more information, call the Board's office at 248-858-0100.



OAKLAND COUNTY JAIL POPULATION MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

With our county jail operating at close to capacity, Oakland County has taken a proactive approach to dealing with this issue. Since the creation of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Jail Population Management Task Force, many issues of concern have been studied. Jail Population Management, Docket Management, Pre-trial, Jail/Court Data, and Jail Alternatives are being reviewed by five task force study groups. The Task Force is focusing on looking at ways to increase the efficiency of processing criminal cases and will make jail population management policy recommendations.

On April 7, 2005, the Oakland County Jail Population Management Task Force hosted a community meeting in the Board's Auditorium. Community residents, local officials, law enforcement, judicial and correction personnel attended this meeting. Members of the National Institute of Corrections shared insight during their three-day tour and study of assessing the county's local jail crowding system. Members of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners serving on the Jail Population Management Task Force, which is chaired by Commissioner Eric S. Wilson, are supporting the project, along with Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard, Chief Circuit Judge Wendy Potts, and the County Executive's Office.

The Board of Commissioners and the Jail Population Management Task Force continue to seek solutions and will report recommendations by October 1, 2005. This will follow the State of Michigan's Fiscal Year 2005/2006 Budget, which may feature potential changes in Michigan Sentencing Guidelines and other cost reduction measures in the state's correction system.